

# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

ROBERT F. STEPHENS, *Secretary*  
DOUG SAPP, *Commissioner*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 8, 2000**

### **Justice Cabinet & DOC issue new data entry policy**

**Frankfort, KY** – The Kentucky Justice Cabinet and the Department of Corrections (DOC) have jointly issued a policy that precludes Kentucky Correctional Industries (KCI) from accepting any data entry work requiring the input of individual personal information by inmates.

This issue came to light last month when the Cabinet for Health Services sought approval from the Government Contract Review Committee for a contract with KCI to enter vital statistics data. At the hearing, members of the Committee voiced concerns over this practice.

“While not illegal, the entry of personal data by inmates raises valid privacy concerns, said Commissioner of the Department of Corrections Doug Sapp.

“However, after this issue was brought to our attention by members of the General Assembly, we decided it would be a good public policy decision to halt such work.”

The new policy will go into effect Oct. 1, 2000. This effective date will allow KCI to complete any pending work and provide both public and private customers who utilize the services to be given reasonable notification of the new policy.

The policy also requires the establishment of a Privacy Standards Review Committee appointed by the Secretary of the Justice Cabinet to approve any future data entry jobs performed by inmates.

**JUSTICE CABINET POLICY  
CORRECTIONS WORK BY INMATES AND  
ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Legislature has created public policy with enactment of various laws requiring the Department of Corrections to establish employment for inmates. This has been accomplished, in large measure, to meet the cost of their maintenance in the respective institutions and to provide other state governmental agency products and services at cost savings to the taxpayer. This employment, including the many programs under the direction of Correctional Industries, has also provided inmates with vital work skills to be utilized for their family's economic support when they are released back into their respective communities.

The public policy considerations must be balanced, however, with the privacy rights of citizens. Accordingly, the policy of the Justice Cabinet to be fully implemented by October 1, 2000 is declared to encompass the following:

1. The Department of Corrections shall take appropriate steps to end any work requests or contractual arrangements with any state governmental agency or private company in which data entry or other reporting materials are utilized which are being performed by inmates which discloses and allows inmates access to individual personal information including names, addresses, telephone number, or social security numbers of any citizen.
2. There is further established a Privacy Standards Review Committee to be appointed by the Secretary of the Justice Cabinet which shall include a representative from the following:
  - Governor's Office for Technology
  - Finance and Administration Cabinet
  - Justice Cabinet

This committee shall review all data entry work requests made of the Department of Corrections requiring employment by inmates prior to commencement of any work performed. However, approval shall not be denied to those work requests, which do not divulge privacy or privileged information as to individual names, addresses, telephone numbers or social security numbers.

This 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2000 by:

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Robert F. Stephens  
Secretary  
Justice Cabinet

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Doug Sapp  
Commissioner  
Department of Corrections